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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
| HIROKI HAYASHI, et al. |) | Examiner: A. Vo |
| Application No.: 10/667,316 |) | Group Art Unit: 2861 |
| Filed: September 23, 2003 |) | |
| For: INK CONTAINER, RECORDING |) | |
| HEAD AND RECORDING |) | December 27, 2005 |
| DEVICE USING SAME |) | |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of non-U.S. patent documents 1 and 3 to 5 so listed are enclosed. A copy of non-U.S. patent document 2 will follow under a separate letter.

1. Japan 8-276601
2. Japan 2-118971
3. Japan 2000-6867
4. Japan 9-267487
5. Japan 6-15839

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

December 27, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Frank L. Cire, Reg. No. 42,419
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Signature

December 27, 2005
Date of Signature

These Japanese references were cited in a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A partial English language translation of the Japanese Office Action in which these references were cited follows:

"Claims 1 3, Claims 6 8:

"References 1 4:

"Reference 1 discloses an ink container including a casing having a substantially a rectangular bottom side, a plurality of ink accommodating portions into which a space in said casing is partitioned by a partition plate and ink supply ports provided for the respective ink accommodating portions and provided at the bottom side of the casing, said ink container being the detachably mountable to an holder having a recording head for ejecting ink accommodated in the ink accommodating portion" wherein said ink supply ports are disposed at the positions deviated to one of the long sides of the bottom surface, wherein the bottom surface of said casing is provided with recesses which is provided with said ink supply ports (Col 28, Line 34 to Col. 29, Line 34, Figures 25, 26 and 35).

"As disclosed in references 2 and 3 and so on, it is well known in the field of manufacturing articles from plastic resin material or sympathetic resin material by injection molding that in order to avoid occurrence of weld mark which is produced by the flow of the resin material is divided into two paths with a hall therebetween and merges after the hole.

"In the field of the ink container, it is well known, without the necessity of citing any example, to manufacturing the ink containers by injection molding.

"As disclosed in reference 4, the protection of the weld around the ink supply port of an ink container is a well known problem.

"Accordingly, it is obvious to cut the side of the recess having the ink supply port away. How to cut it is merely matter of design.

"Furthermore, reference 1 discloses that one side of an ink container is provided with a latch lever having a lacking claw, and the side opposite from the side having the latch lever is provided with a retaining claw. The structure corresponds to what is claimed in Claims 2 and 3.

"Claim 4:

"References 1 5:

"The above the discussion applies to Claim 4.

"In addition, reference 5 discloses an ink container comprising an air vent, wherein high density fibers and low density fibers are stacked in the order named from the bottom side of an ink container which is provided with an ink supply path (col 2 line 31 to and 3, line 3, Figure 1). The structure corresponds to what is claimed in Claim 4."

U.S. Patent 5,619,237 is believed to be an English language counterpart to Japan 8-276601, and U.S. Patent 5,453,771 is believed to be an English language counterpart to Japan 6-15839. Both of these U.S. patents were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated September 8, 2005. In addition, an English language abstract for each of Japan 8-276601, Japan 2000-6867, Japan 9-267487, and Japan 6-15839 has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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